



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 040447-0218

Applicant: Kyoichi NARIAI
Title: PIEZOELECTRIC ELEMENT
DRIVING CIRCUIT AND
DRIVING METHOD
Appl. No.: 09/576,492
Filing Date: May 23, 2000
Examiner: Karen B. Addison
Art Unit: 2834

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Commissioner:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of document(s) known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of the listed document(s) is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of the first action but before the mailing date of either a final action or notice of allowance under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), and is accompanied by a statement specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The document listed on the attached PTO-1449 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding European application. A copy of an English language abstract of the listed documents, if available, is being provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider this document (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609).

It is believed that the instant information disclosure statement is being filed prior to the mailing date of any Notice of Allowance or Final Office Action. However, if this information disclosure statement is filed after the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance or Final Office Action, then applicant(s) hereby request(s) and authorize(s) the PTO to charge the petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Serial No. 09/576,492

Applicants respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialled copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

Respectfully submitted,

April 18, 2002

Date



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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.



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In re patent application of

Kyoichi NARIAI

Group Art Unit: 2834

Serial No. 09/576,492

Examiner: Karen B. Addison

Filed: May 23, 2000

For: PIEZOELECTRIC ELEMENT DRIVING CIRCUIT AND DRIVING METHOD

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

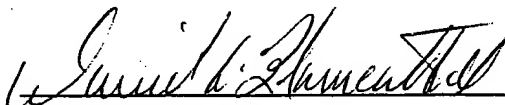
Commissioner:

I hereby certify that the following paper(s) and/or fee along with any attachments referred to or identified as being attached or enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a) on the date of deposit shown below with sufficient postage and in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231.

1. Information Disclosure Statement
2. PTO/SB/08
3. Postcard

Respectfully submitted,

April 18, 2002
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RECEIPT IS HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED OF THE FOLLOWING:

Applicant: Kyoichi NARIAI
Serial No. 09/576,492
Filing Date May 23, 2000

1. Information Disclosure Statement
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2